

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**August 2, 2005**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, Lopez,  
Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Absent: Alderman O’Neil

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Harold Levine, 49 Hillcroft Road, Manchester, NH, stated:

Last Aldermanic meeting there was a proposal by one of the Aldermen to form a committee of concerned taxpayers who felt that over the years city government has been very inefficient. And, I think it really has to start with the Mayor’s Office. I know that approximately two years ago I asked Alderman Lopez to respond to an ordinance that he tells me was passed that all city vehicles display city decals...to this date I have not seen that being enforced because we have more new city vehicles running around without decals and I think a lot of it is being used for personal use. I was very surprised when Alderman Lopez got up and spoke against this committee along with Alderman Roy and Alderman O’Neil...remember many years ago when Alderman O’Neil was an Alderman from Ward 4...he was a big spender then and now the same thing. Mike Roche was mentioned...he’s a person who still works at Water Works and I haven’t got the letter with me tonight but there was a letter Mike sent me this is why this committee more or less got together because he met with the woman who is in charge of the Human Resource Committee and she claimed she’s got a committee and I’d like to know...it’s only seven (7) months...did she ever tell the Mayor or her committee what Mike had told them. With the Water Works alone he’s been saving the City an average of \$37,000 a year and this is why we feel in Manchester everything is inefficient. You can say you have department heads and everything but please let’s get this ordinance on the books and I think it should start tomorrow and I think that the

only vehicles that should not have decals are detective units in the Police Department.  
Thank you.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I'm Co-Chair of the Spending Cap Referendum which exceeded the required number of signatures by about 50%, slightly over 50% so went over because the City Clerk's office...even though someone is a registered voter the City Clerk's office does not count them as a legitimate voter if they have moved...even another location in the ward...at least that was my understanding. I went down to the City Clerk's office to talk about that. So, we went way over to make sure we had plenty of signatures and tonight I heard through a phone call because when you go through a thousand hours of collecting signatures and it's pretty hard work you get worried about people subverting your efforts and I heard tonight and I hope this is a false alarm that there is going to be some effort by the Aldermanic Board to subvert this spending cap referendum...I hope that's not going to happen. I've been out there talking to thousands of people and this is an idea whose idea has come...maybe some people think it's a bad idea but if it's a bad idea whose time has come because there's a larger constituency in this City than municipal workers or the Downtown Chamber of Commerce and that's the people who are actually paying the bills. Every property owner, every renter in this town is paying the bills and they have to have their will respected. They signed the referendum, they expect it to be on the ballot and I hope there is not going to be any problem with that. The Mayor alluded during his radio show and again this is hearsay I do not hear the radio show although I'm very interested in being on a radio show on that station myself since I'm running for Mayor as well. He alluded to perhaps some legal problems with the referendum. So far as we know there are no legal problems with this. The only legal requirement is that these signatures be certified and we fully expect that to happen. So, when you do review this and you set the time for the public hearing I hope you're going to show good will to all of the citizens of this City that have signed that referendum and want to see it on the ballot. Thank you.

Mayor Baines stated I would like the Board to allow me at this time to introduce Peter Escalera who will talk a little bit about the Latino Festival. I think we're going to have a little demonstration.

Alderman Lopez asked would you give them a couple minutes to set up.

Mayor Baines received the special meeting for a period of two minutes.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Peter Escalera stated thank you Mayor and thank you to Manchester's Aldermen. This year I had the great opportunity to be directing one of the Latinos Unidos committee and it's the Public Relations Committee. It's been an exciting for the past nine months we've been working hard for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Festival right here in New Hampshire. We're excited and it's on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon to 8 PM at Veteran's Park. We're inviting each and every one of you and everyone here in Manchester and throughout the state to come listen to Latin music, folk dance, arts, crafts, picnic foods from different Latin countries. It's a family-oriented event and it's free. Also, something new this year on August 19<sup>th</sup> we have the Latino Parade right down here on Elm Street...we'll be leaving Victory Park at 12:00 noon traveling south to City Hall where we will meet the Mayor and hopefully the Governor and will have a ceremony there honoring us opening up the ceremony honoring our soldiers that are fighting in Iran and Iraq and the color guard will be Sweeney Post. We're excited because there's so many things that we have to be grateful for and so many people, so many different companies and different sponsorships that make this a success...the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Festival. Our mission of Latinos Unidos of New Hampshire is to establish a scholarship fund and over the past six years we have, I think, estimated over \$35,000 that we have given out in scholarships for young men and women that are going on to further their education and that is our principal goal and stuff like this is not possible without sponsorship by Bank of America...the corporate sponsor...we thank them a lot over there...Mr. David Whitney and also the President of the Bank in Manchester and also Mr. David Hainey, Community Planning Coordinator. So, once again we'll invite each and everyone to August 19<sup>th</sup> to the Latino Parade kicking off at noon on Elm Street and on August 20<sup>th</sup> the Latino Festival in Veteran's Park from 12:00 noon until 8:00 PM...come and enjoy it. At this time I would like to introduce a group of Colombian dancing girls and hope you enjoy it.

Mr. Escalera introduced the President of the Latinos Sonidos, Sonia Parra.

Ms. Parra stated you're saying oh my God when is she going to start talking in English. I'm really glad to be here. I am here for the purpose of also inviting you to come and join us at the Latino Festival but also to present to you the Grand Marshall for this year which is Shirley Brien and I'll ask you to pass over hear. Shirley Brien has been a member of this community for many years. She has served the Latino community for over 40 years and we're just going to let her say a couple of words...she didn't know this but I didn't want to make her nervous about it.

Ms. Brien stated I was born in Manchester and when I was a bit younger I spent some time in Columbia and that's where I learned my Spanish. I couldn't stay in Columbia for reasons so I decided I was going to bring Columbia to me and that's what I did for 40 years is I'd spend my life with Hispanics here in Manchester and we started with just a few but now we have a large number and I've enjoyed every minutes of it and I wish I could have 40 more years. Thank you so much.

Ms. Parra stated I also would like to introduce to you Mary Gonzalez-Padilla who is queen of the festival. Mary is from Bolivia and she is going to say a couple of words.

Ms. Gonzalez-Padilla stated good evening Mayor and Ladies and Gentlemen...I'm 15 years old and from Bolivia and am queen of the Latino Festival for 2005 and proud to represent my community and my country Bolivia. This is the most important that has happened to me because I am having the opportunity to show our culture to this beautiful state. This year we are having different activities and the Latinos Unidos of New Hampshire invite you to join us. Thank you Mayor for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself...thanks to the Latinos Unidos of New Hampshire to give me the opportunity to represent you this year. Thanks everybody...thank you.

Ms. Parra stated Mr. Mayor I also want to thank you because you have been with us since the beginning...since the year 2000 you have provided us with a lot of support and that really counted to us. One person I could not pass saying thank you to is Mike Lopez...Mike Lopez has been there for us all the time...nighttime, daytime, Sunday, Monday...everyday and we appreciate all of the support that you provide our organization and we are so glad that you're part of our community and we're so honored that you're part of our community. I thank you very much. And, I want to introduce to you the Vice-President of Latinos Unidos of New Hampshire Daniel Arellano.

Mr. Arellano stated thank you again for allowing us to be here and to share the best of the Latino community with you and all of the Manchester community. But, I also want to invite you to our special ceremony we will have August 5<sup>th</sup> at City Hall Plaza...we will be having a Hispanic parade from the Bank of America to the plaza here next to City Hall...we're going to have our corporate sponsorship presentation where we will be receiving our check from the Bank of America who have been our sponsors for the last six years and are honored to be partners with them.

Mayor Baines interjected by the way Governor Lynch will be attention also.

Ms. Parra stated I would also like to present to close this event somebody who has been very supportive to us Miah Trost from the Royal Palace Dance Studio and he's going to boogie. We actually have a gala dance at the Executive Court Conference Center and we have two live bands that are going to be there, please call us for your ticket and we'll teach you...we'll give you private lessons right that. Thank you so much for your time and again please join us to celebrate.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Porter, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented, and on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk